

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 0071

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, XF, SG, IZ
SUBJECT: SENEGAL'S SUPPORT FOR SADAT AND RELATIONS WITH IRAQ

REF: DAKAR 136

1. SUMMARY: SENEGALESE EMBASSY REACTS STRONGLY AND
PUBLICLY TO ALLEGATIONS IN IRAQI PRESS OF POPULAR
OPPOSITION IN SENEGAL TO SADAT INITIATIVES. END SUMMARY

2. THE EMBASSY OF SENEGAL ISSUED THE FOLLWOING
STATEMENT ON JAN 7 TO IRAQI NEWSPAPERS AND DIPLOMATIC
MISSIONS:
BEGIN TEXT
IN THEIR EDITIONS OF THURSDAY 29/12/1977, THE
IRAQI NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY AL-THAWRA AND AL-
HOUMHOURIYA, HAVE PUBLISHED NEWS, WITHOUT INDICATING
THE ORIGIN, BY WHICH "THE ARAB STUDENTS IN DAKAR, AND
"A NATIONAL MOVEMENT OF THE ARAB EMIGRANTS OF SENEGAL"
HAVE SENT, RESPECTIVELY, TO PRESIDENT SADAT
AND TO THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE ARAB LEAGUE,
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SOME TELEGRAMS WHICH CONDEMN THE "INITIATIVES OF
THE EGYPTIAN HEAD OF STATE."
TO THIS PURPOSE, WE WANT TO SPECIFY:
-THAT THERE IS NO ARAB STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
IN THE UNIVERSITY OF DAKAR;
-THAT THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE ASSOCIATIONS
REGISTERED TO THE SENEGALESE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

DOES NOT MENTION A GROUP NAMED "NATIONAL MOVEMENT
OF ARAB EMIGRANTS";
-THAT RESPECTFUL OF THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-
INTERFERENCE IN INTERIOR AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES,
THE MANIFESTATIONS AGAINST FOREIGN COUNTRIES' HEADS
OF STATE ARE STRICTLY FORBIDDEN BY SENEGALESE LAW;
-THAT SINCE NOVEMBER 29, 1977 TO THIS DAY,
THE SENEGALESE PRESS, WHICH IS FULLY FREE AND DIVERSE,
AND THE FOREIGN PRESS FOR WHICH ACCESS TO SENEGAL
IS UNIMPEDED, HAVE NOT MENTIONED THE ACTIVITIES WHICH
WERE PUBLISHED BY THE SAID IRAQI NEWSPAPERS.
END TEXT

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNUSUAL, IF NOT UNPRECEDENTED,
FOR A DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO TAKE PUBLIC ISSUE WITH
IRAQ'S STATE-CONTROLLED MEDIA. AL-THAWRA (BAATH PARTY)
AND AL-JUMHURIYA(GOVERNMENT) ARE BAGHDAD'S TWO
LEADING DAILIES, AND THE EDITORS-IN CHIEF ARE,
RESPECTIVELY, A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND
COUNCIL AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION. IT IS ALSO
A VIOLATION OF OFFICIAL RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN
EMBASSIES TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE LOCAL
PRESS. SENEGALESE AMBASSADOR IS ONE OF MORE OUTSPOKEN
AND PRINCIPLED CHIEFS OF MISSION IN THIS TOWN, BUT
HIS ACTION IS UNLIKELY TO SOFTEN IRAQI ANTAGONISM
TOWARD SADAT.
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